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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Philippines – Typhoon

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 27, 2008

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On June 20, 2008, Typhoon Fengshen (Frank) made landfall in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines, with heavy rains and sustained winds of up to 160 km per hour (kph) and gusts as high as 175 kph, according to the Philippines Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration.
- The Philippines National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) reported on June 27 that the storm affected nearly 2.9 million people across 46 provinces. The typhoon killed 664 people and injured 291 others, while 942 people remain missing. According to the NDCC, 167,181 houses were damaged and 65,413 houses were destroyed as a result of the typhoon.
- On June 23, 2008, following a request for international assistance from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Thomas B. Gibbons declared a disaster due to the effects of Typhoon Fengshen and requested relief assistance from USAID/OFDA. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 on June 23 through USAID/Philippines to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- On June 25, the USS Ronald Reagan carrier group, including helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, arrived off of Panay Island to support relief efforts.
- A two person USAID/OFDA team, including a field officer and a military liaison officer, arrived in Iloilo on June 26 to assess needs and help coordinate USG assistance in collaboration with DOD, the U.S. embassy, and Philippine counterparts.
- A USAID/OFDA charter flight carrying relief commodities is scheduled to arrive at Iloilo Airport on June 29.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	2,875,725	NDCC – June 27, 2008
Dead	664 ¹	NDCC – June 27, 2008
Injured	291	NDCC – June 27, 2008
Missing	942 ²	NDCC – June 27, 2008
Displaced	307,745	NDCC – June 27, 2008

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed for Typhoon Fengshen.....\$666,010
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance Committed for Typhoon Fengshen.....\$666,010
Total DOD Humanitarian Assistance Committed for Typhoon Fengshen.....TBD
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed for Typhoon Fengshen\$666,010

CURRENT SITUATION

- More than 300,000 people have sought refuge in 764 different evacuation centers, according to the NDCC. The provinces of the Western Visayas, the central Philippines island chain, were particularly hard hit.
- A total of 664 people have died and 942 remain missing due to flash flooding, storm surge, and landslides.
- As a result of the typhoon, on June 21, the Princess of the Stars ferry sank in the area of Sibuyan Island with 724 passengers, 121 crew members, and 4 sea marshals onboard. According to the NDCC, as of June 26, 56 survivors had been found, 124 people had been confirmed killed, and 665 were still missing.

Damage Assessment

- According to the NDCC, the initial property damage is estimated at \$22 million and includes destroyed or damaged homes, school structures, and crops. Damage estimates will likely rise as further infrastructure assessments are completed.

¹ This number includes those people reported killed as a result of the sinking of the Princess of the Stars ferry.

² This number includes those people reported missing as a result of the sinking of the Princess of the Stars ferry.

Humanitarian Needs

- The NDCC and the PNRC have identified the provision of safe drinking water and shelter as the primary priority relief needs at present.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On June 23, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Thomas B. Gibbons declared a disaster due to the effects of Typhoon Fengshen. In response, USAID provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Philippines to the PNRC. This funding is supporting the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, mosquito nets, and water containers, to families affected by the storm.
- On June 25, 2008, the USS Ronald Reagan and its carrier group, which includes one cruiser, two destroyers, and one frigate, arrived west of Panay Island. Between June 25 and June 27, helicopters and fixed wing C-2 aircraft from the carrier group, flying fifty-one and nine sorties respectively, delivered relief commodities and transported USG and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel to otherwise inaccessible areas on Panay and Sicogon islands.
- USAID is airlifting relief commodities to Iloilo with arrival scheduled for June 29. The airlift includes 3,360 hygiene kits, 334 rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, and 6,660 safe water containers. The value of the airlift, including transport, is more than \$550,000.
- On June 24, 2008, the U.S. Navy Ship Stockham was deployed with small boats, two search and rescue helicopters, and an underwater scuba team, to find survivors and locate bodies from the Princess of the Stars.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
PNRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Cebu, Ramblon, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao provinces	\$100,000
USAID Stockpile and Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected areas	\$566,010
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$666,010
DOD ASSISTANCE			
GRP and PNRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Panay and Sicogon islands	TBD
GRP and PNRC	Air Transportation	Panay and Sicogon islands	TBD
TOTAL DOD			TBD
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR TYPHOON FRANK IN FY 2008			\$666,010

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 27, 2008.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the Philippines may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/